Need for Accommodation
If there is anything that could affect your class participation or performance and may need accommodation, e.g., a religious holiday, disability, mahjong team, etc., please tell me during the first week so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Meeting Times and Locations:
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Van Hise 374.

Communication:
Professor: Joe Dennis
Office: 5135 Humanities
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00 a.m. - 11:50, and by appointment.
Mailbox 5006 (fifth floor Humanities mailboxes above the History Department Office).
E-mail: dennis3@wisc.edu. Email is the best way to contact me outside of class.

Course description:
This is an upper division course on early modern Chinese history, arranged by topic. Topics addressed include environment; government and politics; economy; intellectual life, family, marriage, and sex; science, technology, and medicine; and military. The class is small enough that we can focus on discussion of assigned readings, but these will be supplemented by Professor Dennis lecturing and analysis of primary sources. The single most important thing in this class is to keep up on the reading. Course requirements include coming to class prepared for discussion, participating in discussion, taking short multiple-choice quizzes that are designed to be easy if you did the reading, two writing summaries/analyses/comparisons,
and a final paper of 2500-2800 words, including footnotes, bibliography, title, etc. There are no exams.

**Required readings available in the bookstore:**


All other readings have been uploaded to Canvas or are available online.

**Class Schedule:**

**Tuesday, January 25:** Introduction to the class and classmates. Fill out student background sheets. Discuss course plan and what we mean by early modern China. Discussion of periodization. Basic geography and chronology.


**Tuesday, February 1:** READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Marks, Robert. *China and its Environment*, chapter 6. **Happy Spring Festival! Discuss Spring Festival.**


**Tuesday, February 8:** READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Timothy Brook, *The Troubled Empire*, pages 1-49.

**Thursday, February 10:** READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: *Troubled Empire* pages 50-78. **By 5:00 a.m. today, post a 300-word comparison (plus or minus 25 words) of The Troubled Empire pages 50-78 to Marks’ discussion of China’s environmental history in chapter 5 from last week. Explain how Brook and Marks’ sources, approaches, and conclusions are similar and different.**

**Tuesday, February 15:** READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: *The Troubled Empire*, pages 79-105.

**Thursday, February 17:** READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS. Dardess, John. *Four Seasons*, pages 1-80.

**Tuesday, February 22:** READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS. Dardess, John. *Four Seasons*, pages 85-144.

Tuesday, March 1: READ BEFORE CLASS: Gerritsen, Anne. City of Blue and White, chapter 10 (pages 195-215, on Canvas), and take the ONLINE QUIZ on it in Canvas. Meet in the Chinese section of the Chazen Museum to look at Ming art, not in our classroom!

Thursday, March 3: READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Gerritsen, Anne. City of Blue and White, chapter 9 (pages 175-194, on Canvas). Begin thinking about your final project and post in Canvas (Discussions) a one-paragraph description of your topic. I will read these and make suggestions.


Thursday, March 10: Museum Assignment due in class. Vote for best drawing. This will be a catchup day for Professor Dennis to lecture about things that we did not get to in previous classes.

Tuesday, March 15: NO CLASS, Spring Break!

Thursday, March 17: NO CLASS, Spring Break!

Tuesday, March 22: Paper Research Day (NO CLASS). Instead of class on March 22, please go to Memorial Library and find at least one primary source and three secondary sources that are relevant to your paper topic. Write up two paragraphs on their relevance to your paper and upload to Canvas (Assignments, Paper Research Results) by March 23, 11:59 p.m..

Thursday, March 24: READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Elman Benjamin. “Rethinking the Historical Roots of Late Imperial Civil Examinations,” pages 1-65.

Tuesday, March 29: Unit 5: Family, Marriage, Sex. READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Troubled Empire, 134-160.


Thursday, April 7: Unit 6: Science, Technology, Medicine. READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Sivin, Nathan. “Science and Medicine in Chinese History” (Canvas).

Tuesday, April 12: READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Bian, He. Know Your Remedies: Pharmacy and
Culture in Early Modern China, chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 23-73).

Thursday, April 14: READ, QUIZ, DISCUSS: Bian, He. Know Your Remedies: Pharmacy and Culture in Early Modern China, chapter 3 (pp. 74-101).


Thursday, April 21: Unit 7, Military. Lecture on military. No group reading for today; instead read sources for your paper. Each person will present a one-minute summary of one of their paper sources to present to the class today.

Tuesday, April 26: Draft of final paper due. Bring 3 copies to class for peer review. Also upload your draft to Canvas, Assignments, Final Paper Draft.

Thursday, April 28: Lecture on the fall of the Ming. No group reading today; instead work on your paper. QUIZ on the lecture at the end of class. Course evaluations.

Tuesday, May 3 Work on your final project. Professor Dennis will be in the classroom during the class hour to field questions on students’ final projects.

Thursday, May 5. Last day of class. Professor Dennis will lecture on food history and bring some foods to try. Final papers are due in class.

NO FINAL EXAM.

Grades:
Museum assignment 5%
Neo-Confucianism in History post 8%
CEH/TE comparison 8%
Research Day Post 4%
Class participation 20%
Final paper draft 5%
Final paper 20%
Quizzes 30% (There are 21 quizzes and Professor Dennis will drop your 3 lowest scores, so each remaining quiz will be worth 1.67% of your final grade).

Extra credit: You can get one point towards your final grade by attending an on-campus event related to East Asian history, writing up one paragraph about it, and emailing the writeup to Professor Dennis. You can get a maximum of five extra credit points.

Grading scale:
A=93-100, AB=88-92, B=83-87, BC=78-82, C=70-77, D=60-69, F=below 60.

There is no curve. There is no rounding up—you need to get to the bottom number to get that grade.
“Participation” means you are prepared, alert, and involved in discussions. This means that when you come to class you must have already read the assignment, thought about it, and noted highlights of what was said and what was not said. I will decide the participation grade mainly on my impression of your overall contribution to discussion and class exercises.

I apply imperial Chinese theories of social control to grading. My framework recognizes both the coercive power of the law and the encouraging power of moral example. Poor grades may result from either transgressions or nescience. Transgressions, such as failure to read an assignment, failure to carefully revise papers before turning them in, lazy thinking, etc., are dealt with using Legalist principles, “if the lord above severely punishes and rewards lightly, then it expresses that the ruler loves the people... By punishments eliminate punishments.”

Nescience, however, is students’ natural state at the beginning of each course. It shall be approached with encouragement, assistance, and compassion (unless caused by transgressions). “We can master things we originally did not understand. We not only are capable of destroying the old world, we also can create a new world.” Chairman Mao, 1949.

**Technological Distractions:**

Being focused in class and having good manners are essential. Please turn off your cell phone at the start of class and do not use your computer for anything that is not course related. It is my policy to reduce violators’ grades by one point from their final average for each violation. Thus, for example, if your final average would have been 93, but I observed you texting six times during the semester, your grade would drop to an 87, moving you from an “A” to a “B.” If you are awaiting a heart transplant and thus need to have your phone on, let me know before class.

**Plagiarism:**

Question: What’s the policy?
Answer: “The proverb says: Don’t insult a friend’s wife or bully his concubine. You’ve done both you impudent ape! Come here and let me have a whack at you!” - Ox Demon King to Monkey (Sun Wukong) in *Journey to the West*. Think of your assignments as your teacher’s beloved.

Question: What is plagiarism?
Answer: See the college’s policy or ask me before submitting your paper. If you ask me in advance whether you can present material in a certain way, it is harmonious education. If you just present another’s work without attribution, hoping you will not get caught, it will also be educational, however, the lesson learned will be that, indeed, the lot of sentient beings is to suffer.

Question: What will happen to me if I plagiarize?
Answer: *Ling chi*, or “death by slicing,” a Chinese and Mongol punishment for heinous crimes in imperial times. In contrast to simple decapitation, *ling chi* extended the suffering and forced the condemned person to dishonor their parents by defiling their body. In addition, I may give you a failing grade for the course and the college may expel your remnant parts.
Prior to handing in your first assignment you must read and master the Writing Center’s help page on how to avoid plagiarism:
http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

**Lateness:**
I operate on a tight schedule. If you hand in an assignment late, you mess with my schedule. Remember the immutable law of Karma! Also, you will be docked 5 points per day late.

**Handouts and Assignments:**
If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting any handouts or assignments you missed. First check on Canvas. If nothing is there, check with someone from class or ask me. There is a class list on Canvas. The Master said: “Of neighborhoods, benevolence is the most beautiful.”

**Other Matters:**

The University has many commonsense policies that you are expected not to violate. If you fear your potential actions may be improper, ask me. For example, maintaining a dignified and respectful atmosphere is a responsibility that UW takes seriously. Sexual harassment is one form of disrespect that undermines our community, violates university policy, and could subject one to both civil and criminal liability.

The line between acceptable social interaction and deviance has been drawn and redrawn throughout history by almost every society. For our purposes, following *The Book of Heavenly Commandments*, commandments five through ten will ensure the appropriate class atmosphere (promulgated in 1852 during The Heavenly Kingdom of the Taipings).

Commandment Seven states:

Do not indulge in wickedness or lewdness. In the world there are many men, all brothers; In the world there are many women, all sisters. For the sons and daughters of Heaven, the men have men’s quarters and the women have women’s quarters; they are not allowed to intermix... The casting of amorous glances, the harboring of lustful imaginings about others, the smoking of opium, and the singing of libidinous songs are all offenses against the Heavenly Commandment.

If you have questions or are having any problems, please contact me. Confucius said: “He was quick and eager to learn, he was not ashamed to seek advice.”

1 You will come across many new terms during this course. Grandma gave you that dictionary for a reason. When the term is not in your dictionary, which occurs often, check a bigger dictionary, such as *Oxford English Dictionary*, or ask me.